

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 06268 020925Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 /070 W

-----005727 022237Z /75

R 020524Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9169

CONFIDENTIAL TEHRAN 6268

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, IR

SUBJ: POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION: SHAH'S COMMENTS

1. AT CONCLUSION OF LUNCH AT NIAVARAN PALACE ON JULY 1 WHEN MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON WAS WISHING SHAH AND SHAHbanou HER BEST WISHES FOR IRAN'S FUTURE AND DEVELOPMENT, SHAH BECAME SERIOUS AND REFLECTIVE. HE NOTED THAT THE BOTTOM LINE WAS A CHOICE BETWEEN FREEDOM AND FULL CONTROL LIKE COMMUNIST STATES. FOR IRAN THERE WAS IN REALITY ONLY ONE CHOICE-THE PATH OF FREEDOM. A TRADITIONAL MONARCHY LIKE IRAN COULD NOT IN THE MODERN AGE, HE SAID, ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN TIGHT CONTROL OVER THE PEOPLE. THE TASK WAS TO HAVE THE LIBERALIZATION PROCESS UNFOLD RESPONSIBLY.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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